

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 7-11 remain in the application. Claims 2 and 7-9 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on a separate page. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

In item 3 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 2, 3 and 7-9 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that in claim 2, the recitation of "at least one of the functional elements" lacks proper antecedent basis. The Examiner further stated that in claim 3, the recitation of "at least one of the functional elements" lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 2 has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application, and now read "first and second grippers". Claim 3 has been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

The Examiner stated that claims 7-9 are vague and indefinite because they are incomplete. The Examiner stated that each of claims 7-9 depend from cancelled claim 6. The claims have

been amended so as to overcome the rejection. Therefore, the rejection is now moot.

It is accordingly believed that the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 5 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-3 and 10 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Schaefer (U.S. Patent No. 5,839,366) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 7 on page 3 of the Office action, claim 11 has been rejected as being obvious over Schaefer (U.S. Patent No. 5,839,366) in view of Munker (U.S. Patent No. 5,271,323) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

"said second sheet transport cylinder having a position defined for accepting a sheet to be printed from the first sheet transport cylinder and a position defined for surrendering the printed sheet and, on a path from said surrender position to said acceptance position, said second sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a movement stressing said spring element assigned thereto and a movement relieving the stress, while said first sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a closing movement relieving the stress on said spring element assigned thereto and a closing movement stressing said spring element."

The Schaede reference discloses a first transport cylinder (3) and a second transport cylinder (4). The first transport cylinder (3) has two dipping grippers (10 and 12) and the second transport cylinder (4) has two dipping grippers (16 and 18). A disc cam (19) controls the opening and closing movements of the dipping grippers (10 and 12) on the first transport cylinder (3). A disk cam (21) controls the opening

and closing movements of the dipping grippers (16 and 18) and the second transport cylinder (4).

Clearly, the reference does not show a second sheet transport cylinder having a position defined for accepting a sheet to be printed from the first sheet transport cylinder and a position defined for surrendering the printed sheet and, on a path from the surrender position to the acceptance position, the second sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a movement stressing the spring element assigned thereto and a movement relieving the stress, while the first sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a closing movement relieving the stress on the spring element assigned thereto and a closing movement stressing the spring element, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

The gripper system 6.1 as claimed in claim 1 of the instant application is closed "relieving the stress on a path from the surrender position to the acceptance position", in order to compensate a momentum of the gripper system 5 of the transport cylinder 3.

The Schaeede reference does not disclose any proposal for the compensation of momentum. It can especially be seen in Fig. 1 that the disc cam (21) continually keeps the dipping grippers (16 and 18) in an open position while traveling in the defined

path from the interchange point of transport cylinder (4) and the transfer cylinder (30) to the interchange point of the transport cylinder (4) and the impression cylinder (2). Likewise, the disc cam (19) continually keeps the dipping grippers (10 and 12) in an open position while traveling in the defined path from the interchange point of transport cylinder (3) and the impression cylinder (2) to the interchange point of the transport cylinder (3) and the transfer cylinder (29). Therefore, the dipping grippers (10 and 12) of the first transport cylinder (4) cannot compensate for any momentums that are created by the dipping grippers (16 and 18) of the second transport cylinder (3).

Since the Munker reference does not disclose any momentum compensation, the Munker reference does not make up for the deficiencies of the Schaeede reference.

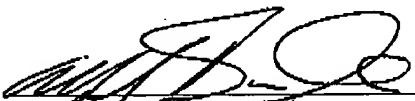
It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, and 7-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 2 (twice-amended). The printing machine according to claim 1, including a cam disk for aiding in coupling the cyclic movement of each of the [functional elements] first and second grippers to the rotational movement of the rollers.

Claim 7 (amended). The printing machine according to claim [6] 1, wherein said impression cylinder has a circumference that is a given number of times the circumference of said feed cylinder and includes a number equal to said given number of said sheet grippers rotating with said impression cylinder.

Claim 8 (amended). The printing machine according to claim [6] 1, wherein said surrender position is defined so that the length of said path of said sheet gripper from said surrender position to said acceptance position is from at least half to all of the circumferential length of said feed cylinder.

Claim 9 (amended). The printing machine according to claim [6] 1, wherein the movement of said sheet gripper of said impression cylinder is a closing movement for passing through a bottleneck.